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CURRENT NOTES ON ART SALES

The art dealers have filled their treasure houses during the last few weeks at Christie's and other sales. The Hawkins collection was first sold at high prices, and the snuff-boxes and miniatures were rattled off merrily. The Nankin China, Sheraton and Chippendale furniture, pictures and drawings collected by Mr. Orrock brought in \$430,000. There were no record prices, but the average was high, as it ought to have been when the collector had exquisite taste and accurate knowledge. His Turners proved a good investment, for the "Walton Bridge," which had cost him 5,000 guineas, was sold for 7,000 guineas, and eight beautiful drawings, two of which had been Mr. Ruskin's treasures, were auctioned off for 5,870 guineas. Nine of Cox's drawings were also sold at good prices, and Mr. Hunt's "Blessing," which Mr. Ruskin had highly praised, brought 500 guineas. One of the best portraits was Sir Joshua Reynolds's "Lady Anne Fitzpatrick," a girl in white with a bunch of grapes, and it was sold for over \$20,000—a marked advance on Mr. Orrock's purchase price. The Massey-Wainwaring collection of furniture and bric-à-brac also commanded good prices, and the Duke of Cambridge's old silver yielded over \$50,000 a day. The season's sales show that there is an undiminished surplus of wealth both in England and in America for the purchase of art treasures; and also that representative collections made with care have a rising value.

✱ The alleged Holbein recently sold in London for \$13,750, a small water-color portrait supposed to represent Frances Howard, duchess of Norfolk, has become the subject of an acrimonious dispute. Doctors disagree, but it seems to be fairly well established that if the picture is a portrait of the young duchess, Holbein could not have painted it. The controversy has not, however, affected prices in the London art auction rooms.

✱ At Mendelssohn Hall recently Mr. Kirby, of the American Art Association, New York, sold at auction the one hundred and sixty-three pictures owned by Dowdeswell and Dowdeswell and T. J. Blakeslee, for the most part examples of the early English, French, Dutch, and Flemish schools, for a total of \$127,695. The hall was crowded with art-lovers, collectors, and dealers. It was truly a bargain sale, many of the canvases going for almost absurdly low figures. E. J. Stehle, presumably acting for another buyer, paid the highest figure of the first evening, \$6,400, for the fine portrait of Elizabeth Sackville, Countess Delawarr, by Sir William Beechey. Frank K. Sturgis paid \$4,500 for the landscape with figures by Gainsborough, the "Market Cart," a replica of the famous canvas in the National

Gallery, in London, and Joseph Pulitzer obtained the strong and dignified portrait of an old Lord Mayor of London, Sir Brooks Watson, by the early American painter, John S. Copley, who was afterward Lord Lyndhurst. The large and showy portrait of George III., by Allan Ramsey, went to the dealer L. A. Lanthier, for the comparatively small sum of \$850. The pictures which brought \$500 and over at the first night's sale with the buyers' names and price, follow: "Portrait of Colonel F. Mountjoy Martin," Sir Thomas Lawrence, P. R. A., American McMillan, \$775; "Portrait of a Nobleman," Barthel Beham, Joseph Pulitzer, \$800; "Portrait of Elizabeth Brandt," Van Ravestyne, George A. Kearns, \$525; "Portrait of Mynheer Ten Eyck," Verspronck, W. W. Seamon, agent, \$500; "The Grand Canal, Venice," Canaletto, D. D. Reid, \$2,000; "A River in France," Thaulow, \$1,150; "Portrait of Miss Morris," Sir Joshua Reynolds, P. R. A., D. S. Reid, \$2,700; "The Grand Canal, Venice," Bellotto, Knoedler & Co., \$750; "Portrait of Brooks Watson, Esq., Lord Mayor of London," John Copley, Joseph Pulitzer, \$2,500; "Autumn Sunset," George H. Bogert, D. S. Reid, \$600; "Portico of the Doge's Palace, Venice," Guardi, D. A. Kennedy, \$1,000; "Portrait of Two Sisters," Harlow, W. Stanhope, \$550; "Portrait of Princess de Tallyrand," Van Loo, Mrs. T. Schmidt, \$825; "A Normandy Fishing Village," Bonington, D. G. Reid, \$1,400; "Domestic Cares," E. Pieters, Max Bleiman, \$900; "Smugglers Creeping for Gin," George Chambers, D. G. Reid, \$510; portrait of a Young Dutch Woman," Van Ravestyne, W. S. Oakman, \$550; "Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia," Van Ravestyne, Bayard Cutting, \$1,600; "Portrait of Elizabeth Sackville," Sir William Beechey, E. T. Steele, \$6,400; "Portrait of Lady Whitmore," Sir Peter Lely, Edward Lauall, \$975; "The Morning Glory," Lefebvre, Joseph Pulitzer, \$1,000; "Canal, St. Marco, Venice," Canaletto, Mrs. J. Schmidt, \$1,025; "A Classical Landscape," Claude Lorraine, F. K. Sturgis, \$775; "Portrait of Princess of Nassau," Edward Brandus, \$1,400; "The Market Cart," Gainsborough, F. K. Sturgis, \$4,500; "Portrait of Catherine of Braganza," Sir Peter Lely, D. S. Reid, \$650; "Venus and Adonis," Jacques Blanchard, George A. Hearn, \$4,900; "The Cottage Door," Barker, D. S. Reid, \$625; "Portrait of Mrs. Sinclair," Harlow, Mrs. J. Schmidt, \$510; "Portrait of Princess Claudia de Medici," Sustermans, E. J. Stehle, \$3,000; "The Lock," Frederick Watts, Robert S. Minturn, \$525; "Portrait of George III.," Allan Ramsay, \$850. The following list shows the names, purchasers, and prices of some of the more important pictures at the second night's sale: "Boy Holding Horses," Cuyp, H. O. Watson & Co., \$1,050; "A Cavalier," Hals, H. O. Watson & Co., \$1,100; "Mrs. Fitzherbert," ascribed to Cosway, V. A. Henry, \$650; "Canal Reggio, Venice," Canaletto, W. A. Taylor, \$825; "Countess of Carlisle," Lely, E. McMillen, \$500; "Sir

Walter Scott," Gordon, S. Untermyer, \$775; "Miss Kelvin," Hoppner, E. Fischhof, \$9,300; "Marie Louise of Orleans," Coello, Francis Lathrop, \$1,900; "Street Scene, Venice," Guardi, D. G. Gardiner, \$1,400; "Portrait of Miss Wilson," Lawrence, D. G. Reid, \$525; "English Landscape," Crome, Blank, \$1,400; "Virgin with the Infant and Saint John," Del Sellajo, W. W. Seaman, agent, \$1,000; "Prince Christian of Bavaria," Largilliere, Ehrich Galleries, \$2,500; "A Village Festival," Teniers, J. D. Crimmins, \$625; "Shepherd and Sheep," Ter Meulen, M. Bleiman, \$650; "Portrait of Miss Franks," Reynolds, D. G. Gardiner, \$7,600; "Portrait of Miss Storr," Lawrence, V. A. Henry, \$1,900; "Peacock and Poultry in a Park," Hondecoeter, Blank, \$1,500; "The Finished Task," Harlow, R. Cluett, \$550; "Minaret of the Moristan, Cairo," Gérôme, M. Bleiman, \$725; "Portrait of Sir Joshua Reynolds," Northcote, Ehrich Galleries, \$525; "Approaching Storm," Bogart, D. G. Reid, \$690; "Miss Abernethy," Beechey, D. G. Gardiner, \$850; "Cathedral Interior," Bonington, J. D. Crimmins, \$1,110; "Music," Raoux, L. A. Lanthier, \$900; "Near Tivoli," Wilson, F. Burton Harrison, \$1,025; "Bredchoff de Vick," De Baen, W. G. Oakman, \$580; "Countess of Falmouth," Lely, L. A. Lanthier, \$550; "Vision of the Dying Virgin," Schut, Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, \$3,600; "In Venice," Canaletto, E. Holbrook, \$750; "Duchess Gonzaga di Mantua," Pourpus, W. G. Oakman, \$1,350; "Landscape," Richet, E. McMillen, \$900; "On the Scheldt," Clays, John Hobart Warren, \$1,650; "Madonna, Child, St. Lawrence, and St. John the Evangelist," Del Garbo, J. D. Crimmins, \$1,800; "Portrait of Queen Charlotte," Ramsay, S. Untermyer, \$1,550; "A Game of Chess," Beechey, E. Fischhof, \$900; "Portrait of Miss Hamilton," Cotes, R. C. Vose, \$500; "Portrait of the Hon. James Sheldon," Romney, E. Brandus, \$1,200; "Christ Sitting in Judgment," Sir E. Burne-Jones, G. D. Pratt, \$1,000.

♣ Advices from London say that some old French furniture, property of the Duke of Marlborough, which had been removed from Blenheim Palace, was a feature of a sale at Christie's rooms. There was a large gathering, which waited until the end of the sale for the chief item, which came last. This was a Louis XVI. commode, stamped with the name of J. H. Reisner, chiefly composed of mahogany. This magnificent piece is provided with tambour panels in front and drawers at the top. In the central panel, inlaid in colored marqueterie, is a bouquet of flowers, while on either side and at the ends are panels of tulip wood marqueterie. The whole is mounted with classic friezes and pateræ, surmounted by a slab of veined marble. Bidding opened at 500 guineas (\$2,250) and ran up rapidly amid great excitement, till Webster secured the trophy for 3,000 guineas (\$15,300).